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**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 003646.P008

First Inventor or Application Identifier Swain W. Porter

Title PRIVACY ENHANCED METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR
Express Mail Label No. EL414969645US CONDUCTING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**APPLICATION ELEMENTS**

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents

1. Fee Transmittal Form
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)2. Specification [Total Pages 28]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)

- Descriptive title of the Invention
- Cross References to Related Applications
- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
- Reference to Microfiche Appendix
- Background of the Invention
- Brief Summary of the Invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure

3. Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 9]

4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]

- a. Newly executed (original copy)
- b. Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
 - i. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting
inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 CFR §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

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SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED
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- 5. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
- 6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. Computer Readable Copy
 - b. Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. Statement verifying identity of above copies

JC715 U.S. PTO
09/504236**ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS**

- 7. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- 8. 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement
(when there is an assignee) Power of Attorney
- 9. English Translation Document (if applicable)
- 10. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO - 1449 Copies of IDS Citations
- 11. Preliminary Amendment
- 12. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
- 13. *Small Entity Statement(s) Statement filed in prior application,
Status still proper and desired
- 14. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
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17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b)) -- INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**
Docket Number (Optional)
003646.P008Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: **Swain W. Porter**

Application or Patent No.: _____

Filed or Issued: **February 15, 2000**Title: **PRIVACY ENHANCED METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR CONDUCTING ELECTRONIC
COMMUNICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

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- the application identified above.
- the patent identified above.

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 DATE

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APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

FOR

**Privacy Enhanced Methods And Apparatuses For
Conducting Electronic Communication**

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"Express Mail" label number EL414969643US

Privacy Enhanced Methods and Apparatuses For Conducting Electronic Communications

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of information systems. More specifically, the present invention relates to electronic communications and privacy.

10 2. Background Information

Advances in computer technology have led to personalization of computers. Once reserved for large enterprises, computers have become affordable and available to the masses. Coupled that with advances in networking and telecommunication technologies, increasingly computers are being networked together. Companies are racing to put their businesses on public data networks, such as the Internet. Other non-profit and government entities are doing the same. Information has become readily available with a few mouse clicks. As a result, increasingly users go on-line to electronically communicate with each other through emails, get their news, do their shopping, meet their friends or simply other users on-line.

Currently, under the prior art, a more sophisticated user may have as many as a handful of email addresses, a work related email address hosted by the IT establishment of the user's employer, a personal email address hosted by the user's Internet access provider (as part of the "access service"), and one or more personal email addresses hosted by the free email services, such as Hotmail.com, Yahoo mail, and the like (to attract the user to visit the site). The user might use the work

related email address for work related communication only, and the other email addresses for personal communications, thereby segregating the personal communications from the scrutiny of the employer. The user might further use the personal email address hosted by the access provider for personal communications with certain group of users, such as friends and family members, while using the personal email addresses hosted by the free email service providers for general communication with other users/establishments of no particular relationship, including content and service providers, e-commerce sites, and the like.

Like its brethren of the earlier era, the "snail" mail, to many users, one of the most annoying aspects of this modern world of electronic communications is the receipt of unsolicited emails, often referred to as SPAM mails. The problem is further compounded by the fact that many Internet access, content, and service providers, e-commerce sites and the like (hereinafter, simply web sites or web site operators) routinely sell their email lists to other parties of interest. When viewing an "in-box", there is no easy way to distinguish between the legitimate mails from the illegitimate mails. The problem is even worse, if the user consolidates all his/her emails of the various email accounts into a single "in-box" (for ease-of-use).

Thus, a more user friendly, in particular, a more private approach to conducting electronic communications is desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A computer (or device of the like), on behalf of a user, registers the user with a first web site. The computer provides a first email address for use to register the user with said first web site. The computer, on behalf of the user, registers the user with a second web site. The computer provides a second email address, separate and distinct from the first email address, for use to register said user with said second web site.

In alternate embodiments, the computer, in like manner, facilitates designations of first and second email addresses for use to electronically communicate with first and second intended communication partners.

Co-related, an email service provider receives emails for the first and second email addresses of the user, and organizes the received emails by at least the email addresses, and by intended versus non-intended CP/GCP of the email addresses.

The email service provider provides these received emails to the computer used the user, with the emails so characterized accordingly.

The computer presents these emails for viewing by the user, including in one embodiment, facilitation of deletion of all emails addressed to an email address received from senders other than the intended CP/GCP, via a single press of a key/control button.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The present invention will be described by way of exemplary embodiments, but not limitations, illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which like references
5 denote similar elements, and in which:

Figure 1 illustrates an overview of the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment;

Figure 2 illustrates a method of the present invention in accordance with one embodiment;

10 **Figures 3a-3b** illustrate the method for a client computer to provide separate and distinct email addresses for the user of the client computer, in accordance with two embodiments;

Figures 4a-4b illustrate two end user interfaces associated with the operation of the present invention;

15 **Figure 5** illustrates correspondence between email addresses and intended communication partners, in accordance with one embodiment;

Figure 6 illustrates a method of operation by the email service provider and the client computer to facilitate viewing of emails, in accordance with one embodiment; and

20 **Figure 7** illustrates an end user interface associated with the method of operation of **Fig. 6**, in accordance with one embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In the following description, various aspects of the present invention will be described. However, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced with only some or all aspects of the present invention.

For purposes of explanation, specific numbers, materials and configurations are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will also be apparent to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without the specific details. In other instances, well known features are

omitted or simplified in order not to obscure the present invention.

Parts of the description will be presented using terms such as scripts, applet, end-user interfaces, icons, and so forth, commonly employed by those skilled in the art to convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. Parts of the description will be presented in terms of operations performed by a computer system,

using terms such as registering, notifying, sending, and so forth. As well understood by those skilled in the art, these quantities and operations take the form of electrical, magnetic, or optical signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, and otherwise manipulated through mechanical and electrical components of a digital system; and the term digital system include general purpose as well as special purpose data processing machines, systems, and the like, that are standalone, adjunct or embedded.

Various operations will be described as multiple discrete steps performed in turn in a manner that is most helpful in understanding the present invention, however, the order of description should not be construed as to imply that these operations are necessarily order dependent, in particular, the order the steps are presented.

Furthermore, the phrase "in one embodiment" will be used repeatedly, however the phrase does not necessarily refer to the same embodiment, although it may.

Referring now to **Figure 1**, wherein a block diagram illustrating an overview 5 of the present invention in accordance with one embodiment is shown. As illustrated, client computer **102**, web sites **112** and **114**, and email service provider **100** are coupled to one another through internetworking fabric **120**. In accordance with the present invention, a user of client computer **102** uses the email service provided by email service provider **100** to enhance the privacy of its electronic 10 communications with web sites **112** and **114**. The enhancements incorporated into client computer **102** and email service provider **100** to make possible the desired enhanced privacy will now be described in turn.

As illustrated, client computer **102** is equipped with browser **132** and enhanced email application **134**, which includes enhanced viewing function **144** and 15 address manager **146**, in addition to conventional functions, such as compose function **142**, and send and receive function **144**. A user of client computer **102** uses browser **132** to visit, commerce or otherwise interact with web sites **112** and **114**. The nature of the interaction is a type that calls for the provision of an email 20 address by the user of client computer **102** for web site **112/114** to send from time to time emails to user. As will be described in more detail below, the user of client computer **102** advantageously uses the enhanced functions provided to email application **134** (address manager **148** in particular) to provide separate and distinct email addresses to web sites **112** and **114**. For the illustrated embodiment, the email addresses are hosted by email service provider **100**, which includes enhanced 25 functions (in cooperation with the enhanced functions of email application **134**) in facilitating the user of client computer **102** in quickly discerning whether the received

emails are from web sites **112** and **114** or not (i.e. the intended communication partners of the email addresses), as well as quickly disposing (if so desired) received emails from senders other than web sites **112** and **114** (e.g. a purchaser of the mail list of web site **112/114**). In one embodiment, the quick discernment and
5 quick disposition is made possible by an automatic categorization feature provided by email service provider **100**.

Client computer **102** is intended to represent a broad range of computing devices and the like known in the art. Examples of client computer **102** include, but not limited to, desktop computers, laptop computers, palm-sized computing devices
10 (also referred as personal digital assistants), enhanced wireless telephones with computing capabilities, set-top boxes and the like, such as those available from Hewlett Packard, Inc. of Palo Alto, CA, Nokia of Finland, Sony Corporation of N.J. Similarly, browser **132** is intended to represent a broad range of browsers known in the art, such as the Navigator from Netscape Communication of Mountain View, CA,
15 and Internet Explorer from Microsoft of Redmond, WA. Furthermore, as will be apparent from the descriptions to follow, the target of the “interaction” may be communication partners other than web sites (e.g. friends and family members of the user of client computer **102**), and the “interaction” may be conducted through other non-browser type applications (e.g. through email application **134**). Likewise,
20 except for the teachings of the present invention incorporated with email application **134**, email application **134** is also otherwise intended to represent a broad range of email applications known in the art, including, but not limited to, Outlook Express available from Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, WA, Lotus Notes available from IBM of Armonk, NY, and so forth.

25 Still referring to Fig. 1, web sites **112** and **114** are intended to represent a broad range of access, content as well as service providers, and the like, known in

the art. As alluded to earlier, in alternate embodiments, web sites **112** and **114** may actually be “non web server” type communication partners, to be described more fully below. In any event, web sites **112** and **114** are intended to represent at least (but not limited to) sites such as a merchandising site like Buy.com, a portal like

- 5 Yahoo.com, a content provider site like MP3.com, an auction site like eBay.com, a service provider site like Expedia.com, and so forth.

Email service provider **100** may be a dedicated email service provider or may also offer other types of services or contents. That is, the privacy enhanced email service may be provided as an integral part of content provision, access service, or

- 10 services of other kinds. The private enhanced email service may be provided by a single or a cluster of servers interconnected via local or wide area networking.

Suitable computer servers include but not limited to those available from IBM of Armonk, NY, and Sun Microsystems of Mountain View, CA.

Internetworking fabric **120** is intended to represent a broad range of public

- 15 and private data networks constituted with hubs, routers, switches, gateways and the like, known in the art. Suitable networking equipment (i.e. hubs, routers, and so forth) includes but not limited to those available from CISCO Systems and 3COM, both of San Jose, CA. In one embodiment, network **120** is the well known Internet.

Thus, the communication links between network **120** and web sites **112-114**, client
20 computer **102** and email service provider **100** may be any one of a number of communication links known in the art, including but not limited to modem connections, digital subscriber lines (DSL), Integrated Service Digital Network (ISDN), cable modem, asynchronous transfer mode (ATM), frame relay and so forth.

Before further describing the present invention, it should be noted that the

- 25 terms “friends” and “family members” as used herein are intended to be broadly defined. No minimal friendship or familial relationship threshold must be satisfied

before an intended communication partner can be considered a “friend” or “family member”.

Having now given an overview of the present invention, in particular the network environment, **Figure 2** illustrates a method of operation of the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment. As illustrated, at **202**, in response to a first need to provide a first intended communication partner (e.g. earlier described web site **112/114**, or simply a friend/family member, or a group of friends/family members of the user of client computer **102**), client computer **102** provides user with a first email address hosted by email service provider **100** for use by the user to provide to the first intended communication partner. At **204**, in response to a second need to provide a second intended communication partner (again, the partner may be web site **112/114**, a friend/family member, or a group of friends/family members of the user of client computer **102**), client computer **102** provides user with a second email address that is separate and distinct from the first email address (but preferably also hosted by email service provider **100**) for use by the user to provide to the second intended communication partner.

In other words, under the present invention, client computer **102** provides the users with multiple separate and distinct email addresses (preferably hosted by the same email service provider **100**) for use with respective communication partners (such as web sites) or groups of communication partners.

It is contemplated by the present invention that among the multitude of situations that give rise to the need for a email address by the user of client computer **102** is the situation where the user is registering with a web site, such as web site **112/114** (see e.g. **Fig. 4a**). Preferably, the need is automatically detected as well as automatically satisfied by address manager **148** of email application **134**.

The auto detection may be accomplished via any one of a number of techniques known in the art including but not limited to intercepting messages of browser 132 to determine whether a registration form including an email address field (**402** of Fig. 4a) is to be completed. Similarly, the auto population of the email address field (**402** of Fig. 4a) may also be accomplished via any one of a number of auto population techniques known in the art.

Another situation contemplated by the present invention that among the multitude of situations that give rise to the need for an email address by the user of client computer 102 is the situation when the user simply wants an email address for exclusive use with a friend/family member or a group of friend/family members. Such need may be explicitly communicated to address manager 148 of email application 134, after the user listing all the applicable email addresses (see e.g. Fig. 4b, fields 404 in particular).

Figure 3a illustrates a method for client computer 102 to provide such separate and distinct email addresses for the user of client computer 102, in accordance with one embodiment. At 302, the user of client computer 102, using email application 134, registers with email service provider 100 for the privacy enhanced email service. In response, at 304, email service provider 100 generates a collection of reserved email addresses hosted by email service provider 100, and pre-provides them to address manager 148 of email application 134. Email service provider 100 may form these separate and distinct email addresses in any one of a number of manners, e.g. by simply enumerating serial numbers and appending them to the user's identifier, such as XYZ0001@postoffice.emailservice.net, XYZ0002@postoffice.emailservice.net, and so forth (see Fig. 5, 502).

Thus, at 306, when a need for an email address is “detected”, address manager 148 selects the next available pre-stored separate and distinct email addresses for use by the user of client computer 102, and records the email address of the intended communication partner or partners (i.e. web site 112/114 or a friend/family members or a group of friends/family members). The process repeats itself with each need for an email address being satisfied by a separate and distinct pre-stored email address. Periodically, at 308, address manager 148 contacts email service provider 100, and notifies email service provider 100 of the email addresses of the intended communication partner or partners of each separate and distinct email address in use. At 310, email service provider 100 updates the previously provided separate and distinct email addresses with the corresponding email addresses of the intended communication partner or partners (see also Fig. 5, 504). In alternate embodiments, the notification, as well as the update, may be made “immediately” as each separate and distinct email address is selected and used.

15

Figure 3b illustrates a method for client computer 102 to provide such separate and distinct email addresses for the user of client computer 102, in accordance with another embodiment. This embodiment differs from the earlier described embodiment in that there is no pre-provision of the separate and distinct email addresses. Instead, each of the separate and distinct email address is provided to client computer 102 in real time, as it is needed.

Similar to the earlier embodiment, at 402, the user of client computer 102, using email application 134, registers with email service provider 100 for the privacy enhanced email service. At 404, when a need for an email address is “detected”, address manager 148 contacts email service provider 100 and requests for assignment of a separate and distinct email address for use with the intended

communication partner or partners. In one embodiment, the request integrally includes the email address or addresses of the intended communication partner or partners. In response, at **406**, email service provider **100** provides client computer **102** with a separate and distinct email address for use with the intended

5 communication partner or partners. In one embodiment, the separate and distinct email address may be generated in real time. In an alternate embodiment, email service provider **100** may select the separate and distinct email address from a cache of pre-generated separate and distinct email addresses for the user. The pre-generation e.g. may be done at registration time, and thereafter periodically.

10 In alternate embodiments where the email address or addresses of the intended communication partner or partners were not provided as an integral part of the request for the separate and distinct email address, the method further include **408**, where address manager **148** subsequently provides email service provider **100** with the address/addresses of the intended communication partner/partners, e.g. by 15 way of a “confirmation” message or messages. In response, as the earlier described embodiment, email service provider **100** updates the separate and distinct email addresses accordingly, noting the email address/addresses of their intended communication partner/partners.

20 **Figure 6** illustrates a method of operation by email service provider **100**, and client computer **102** to facilitate viewing of emails under the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment. As illustrated, at **602**, email service provider **100** receives emails addressed to email addresses hosted by provider **100** for its registered users or subscribers. At **604**, email service provider **100** organizes the 25 received emails by at least the email address addressed, and whether the emails were originated from the intended communication partner/partners or not. For the

illustrated embodiment, email service provider **100** characterizes the received emails by tagging the received emails in accordance with at least the aforementioned criteria, for subsequent delivering to client computer **102**. Email service provider **100** determines whether a received email was originated from an intended communication partner or not, by referencing email address correspondence information maintained (**Fig. 5**). All received emails addressed to an email address of a user originated from a source other than the known intended partners maintained by email service provider **100**, are considered from unintended communication partners, and characterize/tag accordingly.

At **606**, client computer **102**, using email application **134**, connects to email service provider **100** to retrieve the stored received emails (tagged in accordance with at least the email address addressed and whether the originators were intended communication partners of the email addresses). At **608**, viewing function **146** of email application **134** presents the received emails for viewing by the user, using different “in-boxes” the different email addresses, and different “folders” for the received emails originated from the intended communication partner/partners, and received emails originated from sources other than the intended partners (see **Fig. 7**).

At **610**, in response to instruction from the user, viewing function **146** deletes all received emails addressed to an email address of the user not originated from the intended communication partner or partners. For the illustrated embodiment, viewing function **146** also presents an end user interface feature, such as a command button, to enable the user to provide the delete instruction with a single press of a key/control button (see also **Fig. 7**).

Thus, it can be seen from the above description, by advantageously providing separate and distinct email addresses to a user to use to communicate with different intended communication partner or partners (such as a web site), received emails addressed to the email addresses of the user may be easily segregated, separating
5 the emails originated from the intended partner or partners from the emails originated from other sources, thereby allowing the user to easily discern whether the intended communication partner/partners have sold or otherwise given away the user's email address. It can also be seen from the above description, the present invention advantageously allows the user to easily dispose of all the received emails
10 from unintended sources. As a result, user experience is improved.

Accordingly, methods and apparatuses for a privacy enhanced approach to conducting electronic communications have been described. While the present invention has been described in terms of the above illustrated embodiments, those
15 skilled in the art will recognize that the invention is not limited to the embodiments described. The present invention can be practiced with modification and alteration within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. The description is thus to be regarded as illustrative instead of restrictive on the present invention.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 a computer, on behalf of a user, registering the user with a first web site;
 - 3 the computer providing a first email address for use to register the user with
 - 4 said first web site;
 - 5 the computer, on behalf of the user, registering the user with a second web
 - 6 site; and
 - 7 the computer providing a second email address, separate and distinct from
 - 8 the first email address, for use to register said user with said second web site.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first email address comprises a first user
- 2 identifier, and the second email address comprises a second user identifier,
- 3 separate and distinct from said first user identifier.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first email address comprises an address
- 2 of an email service provider, and the second email address comprises the address
- 3 of the same email service provider.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first email address comprises a first user
- 2 identifier and an address of an email service provider, and the second email address
- 3 comprises a second user identifier, separate and distinct from said first user
- 4 identifier, and the address of the same email service provider.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein each of said providing of the first and second
2 email addresses by the computer comprises selecting said first/second email
3 address from a plurality of distinct email addresses pre-provided to said computer.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the method further comprises the computer
2 pre-obtaining the distinct email addresses from an email service provider.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the method further comprises the email
2 service provider pre-generating the distinct email addresses.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein each of said providing of the first and second
2 email addresses by the computer comprises dynamically generating said
3 first/second email address by said computer.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein each of said providing of the first and second
2 email addresses by the computer comprises the computer dynamically obtaining
3 said first/second email address from an email service provider.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein each of said dynamically obtaining comprises
2 the email service provider selecting said first/second email address from a plurality
3 of pre-generated distinct email addresses.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein each of said dynamically obtaining comprises
2 the email service provider dynamically generating said first/second email address.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises notifying an
2 email service provider of the usage of the first and second email address, including
3 addresses of the first and the second web site.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein each of said notification is performed
2 integrally as said first/second email address is provided to said user for use to
3 register the user with the first/second web site.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein said notifications are performed
2 subsequently in batch after said first and second email addresses were provided to
3 said user for use to register the user with the first and the second web site.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
2 receiving emails addressed to said first and second email addresses;
3 organizing said received emails based at least in part on whether the emails
4 are addressed to the first or the second email address.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said organizing of said received emails is at
2 least further based on whether said received emails addressed to said first/second
3 email addresses were sent by said first/second web site or not.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the method further comprises deleting all
2 received emails addressed to said first/second email addresses not sent by said
3 first/second web site, while preserving all undeleted emails addressed to said
4 first/second email addresses sent by said first/second web site.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein said bifurcated deletion is performed in
2 response to an instruction of said user.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises providing the
2 user with an end user interface feature to provide said deletion instruction with a
3 single press of a key/control button.

1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the web site is a selected one of a content
2 provider, a service provider and an access provider.

1 21. A method comprising:
2 an electronic device (e-device) obtaining a plurality of distinct email
3 addresses from an email service provider;
4 the e-device selecting a first of said distinct email addresses to facilitate
5 communication with a first communication partner or group of communication
6 partners (CP/GCP); and
7 the e-device selecting a second of said distinct email addresses to facilitate
8 communication with a second CP/GCP.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises
2 the e-device notifying the email service provider of said selection of the first of
3 said distinct email addresses to facilitate communication with the first CP/GCP; and
4 the e-device notifying the email service provider of said selection of the
5 second of said distinct email addresses to facilitate communication with the second
6 CP/GCP.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises the e-device
2 notifying the email service provider of said selections of the first and the second of
3 said distinct email addresses to facilitate communication with the first and the
4 second CP/GCP.

1 24. A method comprising:
2 an electronic device (e-device) obtaining a first email address from an email
3 service provider;
4 the e-device employing the first email address to facilitate communication
5 with a first communication partner or group of communication partners (CP/GCP);
6 the e-device obtaining a second email address, separate and distinct from
7 said first email address, from the email service provider; and
8 the e-device employing the second email address to facilitate communication
9 with a second CP/GCP.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the method further comprises
2 the e-device notifying the email service provider of said employment of the
3 first email address to facilitate communication with the first CP/GCP; and
4 the e-device notifying the email service provider of said employment of the
5 second email address to facilitate communication with the second CP/GCP.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein each of said notifications is made integrally
2 when the e-device requests said first/second email address from said email service
3 provider.

1 27. The method of claim 25, wherein each of said notifications is made after the
2 e-device having been provided with said first/second email address from said email
3 service provider.

1 28. A method comprising:
2 a email service provider registering a user; and
3 the email service provider providing at least a first and a second email
4 address, that are separate and distinct, to the user for use by the user to
5 communicate with a first and a second communication partner or group of
6 communication partners (CP/GCP).

1 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises the email service
2 provider providing a plurality of distinct email addresses to an electronic device (e-
3 device) used by the user for the e-device to select said first and second separate
4 and distinct email addresses.

1 30. The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises the email service
2 provider providing in real time said first/second email address to an electronic device
3 used by the user.

1 31. The method of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises the email
2 service provider receiving notification of usage of said first/second email address
3 with said first/second CP/GCP from an electronic device used by the user.

1 32. The method of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises the email
2 service provider receiving notification of usage of said first and second email

3 addresses with said first and second CP/GCP respectively from an electronic device
4 used by the user.

1 33. A method comprising:
2 a email service provider receiving emails addressed to a first and a second
3 email address of a user; and
4 the email service provider organizing said received emails based at least in
5 part on said first and second email addresses, and intended versus unintended
6 communication partners of said first and second email addresses.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein the method further comprises providing said
2 emails to the user, with the emails characterized by at least said first and second
3 email addresses, and intended versus unintended communication partners of said
4 first and second email addresses.

1 35. A method comprising:
2 receiving emails, from an email service provider, wherein the emails are
3 characterized based at least in part on by email addresses, and intended versus
4 unintended communication partners of each of said email addresses; and
5 presenting said emails for viewing by a user, organized by at least said email
6 addresses and said intended versus unintended communication partners of said
7 email addresses.

1 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the method further comprises deleting all
2 received emails addressed to the first/second email address not sent by the
3 intended communication partner of the first/second email address.

1 37. The method of claim 36, wherein said deletion is performed in response to
2 user instruction.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the method further comprises providing the
2 user with an end user interface feature to provide said user instruction with a single
3 press of a key/control button.

1 39. An apparatus comprising:
2 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming
3 instructions designed to enable the apparatus (when the programming instructions
4 are executed) to obtain a plurality of distinct email addresses from an email service
5 provider, to selecting a first of said distinct email addresses to facilitate
6 communication with a first communication partner or group of communication
7 partners (CP/GCP), and to select a second of said distinct email addresses to
8 facilitate communication with a second CP/GCP; and
9 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the plurality of
10 programming instructions.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the programming instructions further
2 enable the apparatus (when the programming instructions are executed) to notify
3 the email service provider of said selection of the first and the second of said distinct
4 email addresses to facilitate communication with the first and the second CP/GCP.

1 41. An apparatus comprising:

2 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming
3 instructions designed to enable the apparatus (when the programming instructions
4 are executed) to obtain a first and a second distinct email address from an email
5 service provider in real time, and correspondingly earmarking said first and second
6 distinct email addresses to facilitate communication with a first and a second
7 communication partner or group of communication partners (CP/GCP); and
8 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the plurality of
9 programming instructions.

1 42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) further enable the apparatus to notify of said employment of the first and
3 second email addresses to facilitate communication with the first and second
4 CP/GCP.

1 43. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) enable the apparatus to make each of said notifications integrally when
3 requesting for said first/second email address from said email service provider.

1 44. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) enable the apparatus to make each of said notifications after having been
3 provided with said first/second email address from said email service provider.

1 45. An apparatus comprising:
2 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming
3 instructions design to enable the server (when the programming instructions are
4 executed) to register a user, and to provide at least a first and a second email

5 address, that are separate and distinct, to the user for use by the user to
6 communicate with a first and a second communication partner or group of
7 communication partners (CP/GCP); and
8 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming
9 instructions.

1 46. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) enable the apparatus to provide a plurality of distinct email addresses to
3 an electronic device (e-device) used by the user for the e-device to select said first
4 and second separate and distinct email addresses.

1 47. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) enable the apparatus to provide in real time said first/second email
3 address to an electronic device used by the user.

1 48. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) further enable the apparatus to receive notification of usage of said
3 first/second email address with said first/second CP/GCP from an electronic device
4 used by the user.

1 49. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) enable the apparatus to receive notification of usage of said first and
3 second email addresses with said first and second CP/GCP respectively from an
4 electronic device used by the user.

1 50. An apparatus comprising:

2 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming
3 instructions designed to enable the apparatus (when the programming instructions
4 are executed) to receive emails addressed to a first and a second email address of
5 a user, and to organize said received emails based at least in part on said first and
6 second email addresses, and intended versus unintended communication partners
7 of said first and second email addresses; and
8 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the plurality of
9 programming instructions.

1 51. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) further enable the apparatus to provide said emails to the user, with the
3 emails characterized by at least said first and second email addresses, and intended
4 versus unintended communication partners of said first and second email
5 addresses.

1 52. An apparatus comprising:
2 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming
3 instructions designed to enable the apparatus (when the programming instructions
4 are executed) to receive emails from an email service provider, the emails being
5 characterized based at least in part on by email addresses, and intended versus
6 unintended communication partners of each of said email addresses, and to present
7 said emails for viewing by a user, organized by at least said email addresses and
8 said intended versus unintended communication partners of said email addresses;
9 and
10 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the plurality of
11 programming instructions.

1 53. The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) further enable the apparatus to delete all received emails addressed to
3 the first/second email address not sent by the intended communication partner(s) of
4 the first/second email address.

1 54. The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) further enable the apparatus to perform said deletion in response to user
3 instruction.

1 55. The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the programming instructions (when
2 executed) further enable the apparatus to provide the user with an end user
3 interface feature to provide said user instruction with a single press of a key/control
4 button.

1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computer (or device of the like), on behalf of a user, registers the user with
5 a first web site. The computer provides a first email address for use to register the
user with said first web site. The computer, on behalf of the user, registers the user
with a second web site. The computer provides a second email address, separate
and distinct from the first email address, for use to register said user with said
second web site. In alternate embodiments, the computer, in like manner, facilitates
10 designations of first and second email addresses for use to electronically
communicate with first and second intended communication partners. Co-related,
an email service provider receives emails for the first and second email addresses
of the user, and organize the received emails by at least the email addresses, and
by intended versus non-intended CP/GCP of the email addresses. The email
15 service provider provides these received emails to the computer used the user, with
the emails so characterized accordingly. The computer presents these emails for
viewing by the user, including in one embodiment, facilitation of deletion of all emails
addressed to an email address received from senders other than the intended
CP/GCP, via a single press of a key/control button.

20

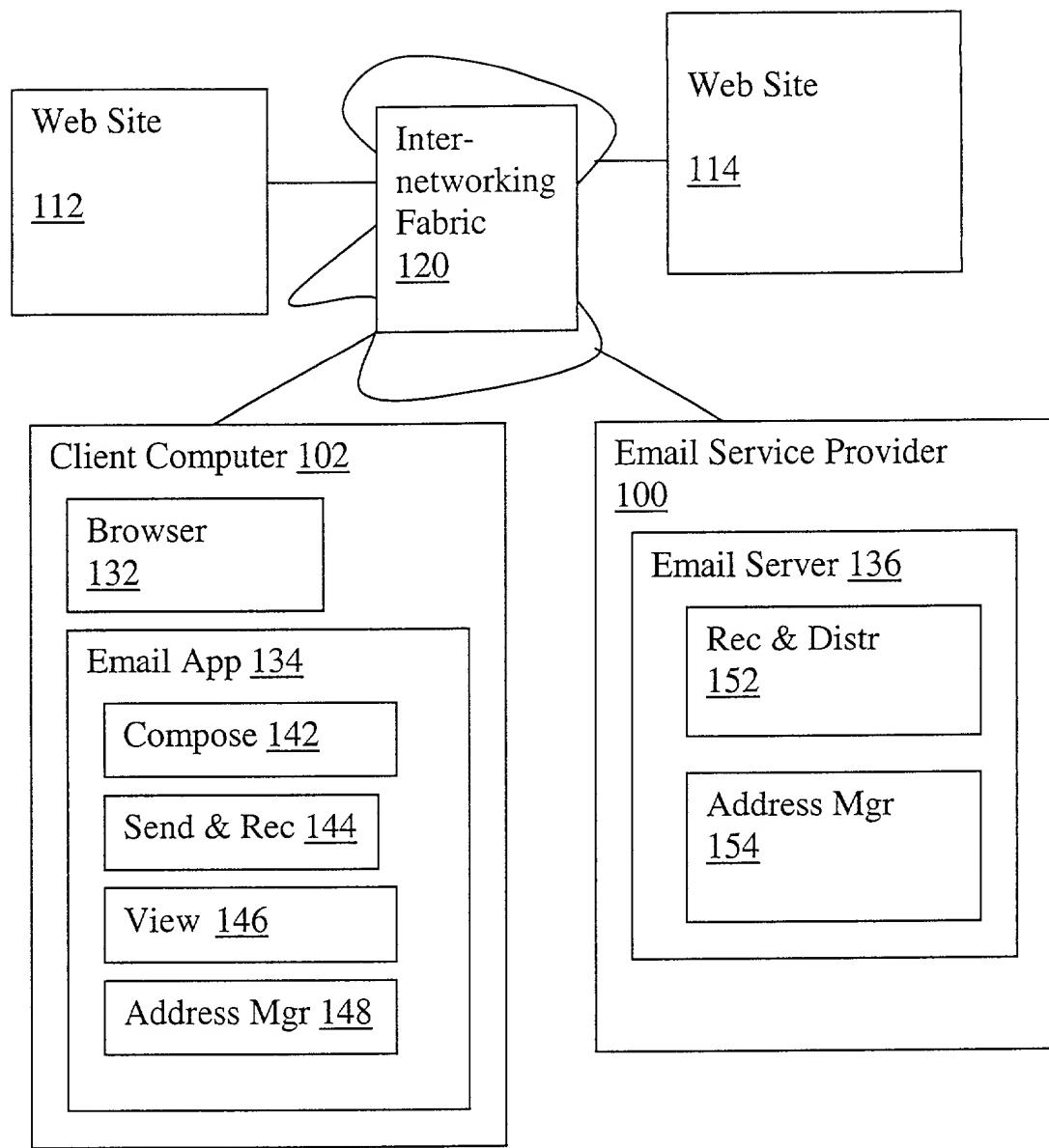


Figure 1

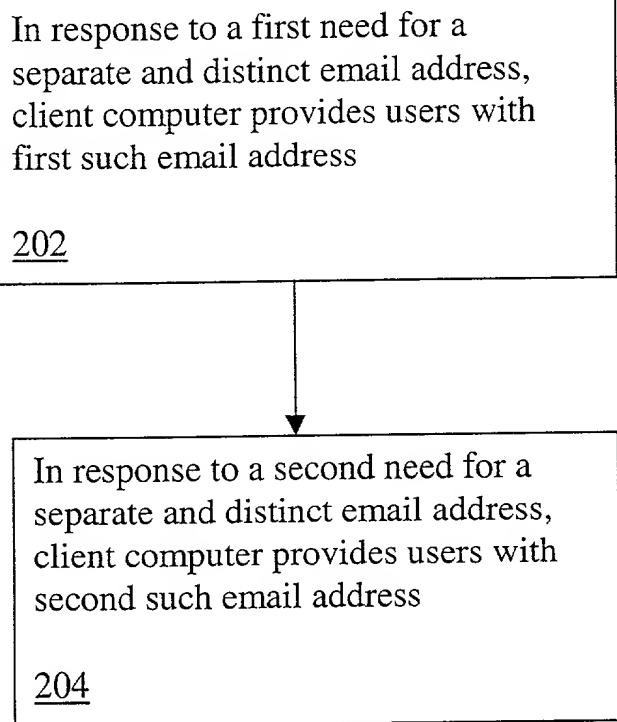


Figure 2

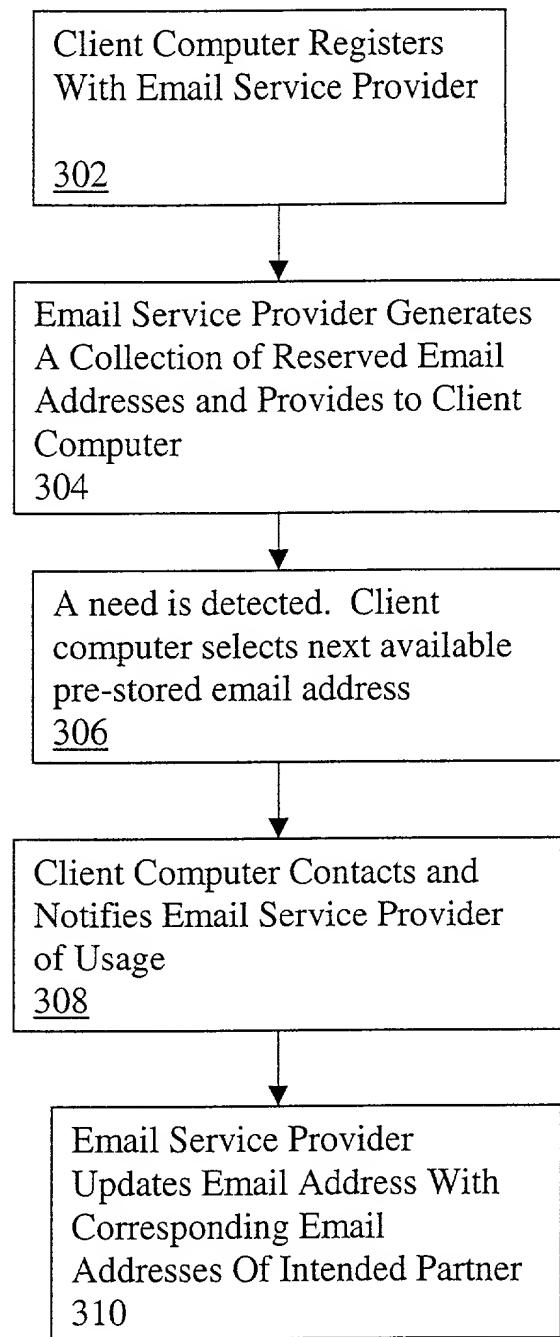


Figure 3a

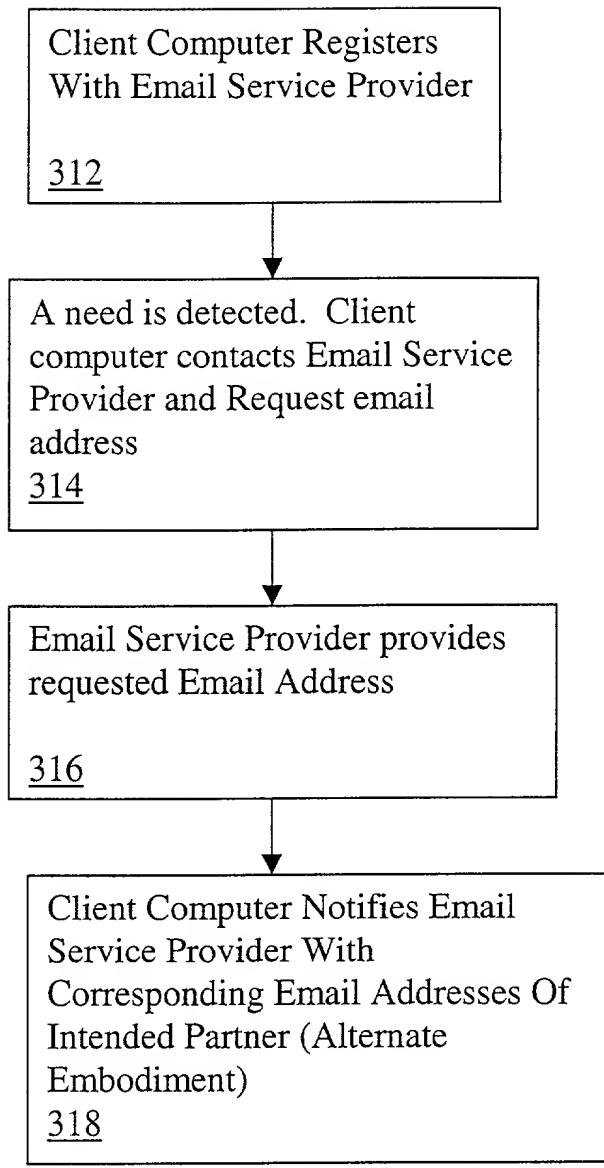


Figure 3b

Registration with BuyWidget.com

Name

Address

City/State

Zip

Email Address

Submit

Figure 4a

Request Email Address from EmailServiceProvider.Net

Please list email address of each intended partner/partners of this email address:

Partner1

404

Partner2

404

Partner3

404

Etc.

Submit

Figure 4b

Email Addresses of A User All Hosted by “postoffice.mailservice.net”	Email Addresses of Intended Partners
XYZ001 <u>502</u>	BuyWidget.com <u>504</u>
XYZ002 <u>502</u>	TravelService.com <u>504</u>
XYZ003 <u>502</u>	Myspouse@www.xyz.com <u>504</u>
XYZ004 <u>502</u>	Mybestfriend1@www.abc.com Mybestfriend2@www.def.com Etc. etc. <u>504</u>
Etc	Etc

Figure 5

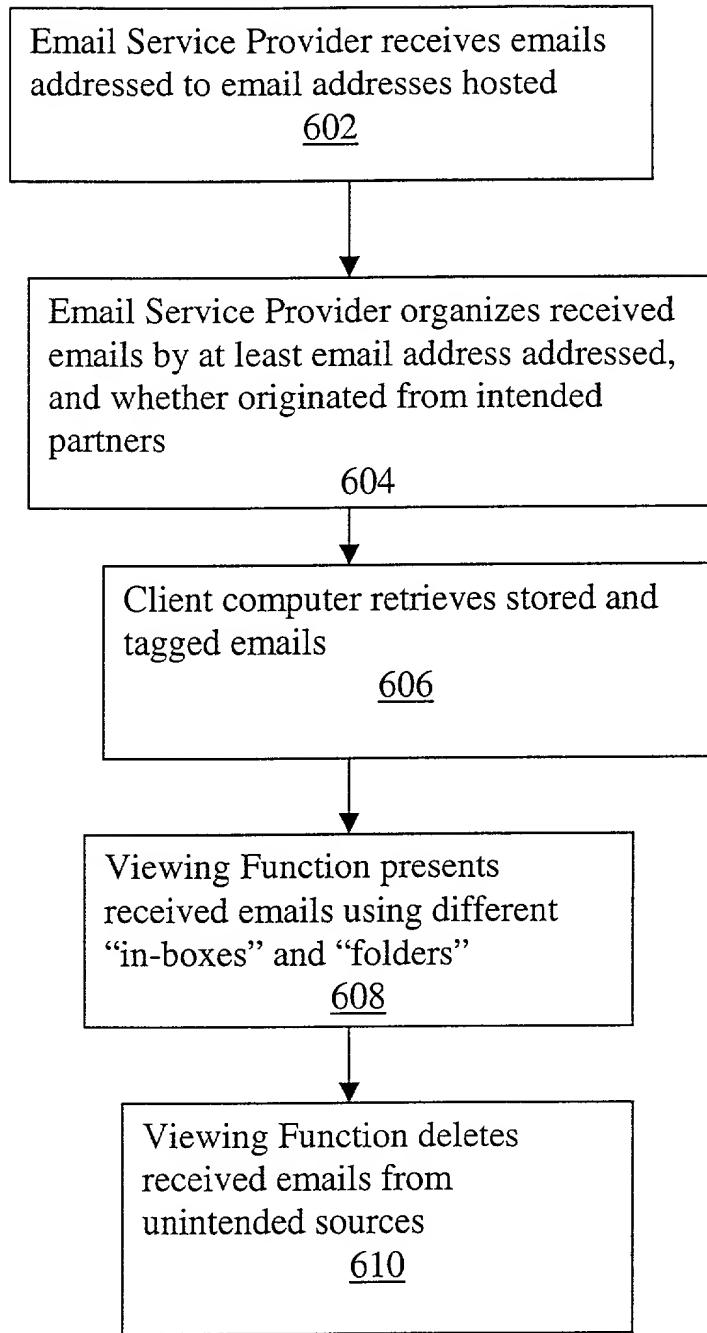


Figure 6

EMAIL APPLICATION – Viewing Function

Inbox for XYZ001 702

From Intended
Source Folder 704

From Unintended
Sources Folder 704

Inbox for XYZ002 702

From Intended
Source Folder 704

From Unintended
Sources Folder 704

Delete
Unintended
706

Figure 7

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or any original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PRIVACY ENHANCED METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR CONDUCTING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

the specification of which is attached hereto.

was filed on _____ as

United States Application Number _____

or PCT International Application Number _____

and was amended on _____

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the claimed invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months (for a utility patent application) or six months (for a design patent application) prior to this application.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):

APPLICATION NUMBER	COUNTRY (OR INDICATE IF PCT)	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
			<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (ISSUED, PENDING, ABANDONED)

I hereby appoint the persons listed on Appendix A hereto (which is incorporated by reference and a part of this document) as my respective patent attorneys and patent agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to:

Aloysius T.C. AuYeung, Reg. No. 35,432, BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

(Name of Attorney or Agent)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025 and direct telephone calls to:

Aloysius T.C. AuYeung, (503) 684-6200.

(Name of Attorney or Agent)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Full Name of Second/Joint Inventor (given name, family name) _____

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence _____ Citizenship _____
(City, State) *(Country)*

P. O. Address _____

Appendix A

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